

10 Great Places for a Historic Stay

Any old hotel can rent a spot for you to lay your head. But it takes a truly historic one to convey the sense of a splendid, significant past. "There are more people seeking out these kinds of facilities," says National Trust for Historic Preservation president Richard Moe. "People really like the authenticity of history, and that's what these hotels represent." Through its Historic Hotels of America program, the National Trust recognizes lodgings that have maintained their original architecture and ambience. Here, Richard spotlights 10 of the 145 member establishments (information: 800.678.8946).

The Greenbrier

White Sulphur Springs WV

Lots of resort hotels have gracious interiors and expansive grounds. But the Greenbrier, set on 6500 lush acres in the Allegheny Mountains, is the only one that boasts its own underground bunker. The Cold War bunker was built between 1958 and 1961 to house Congress in the event of nuclear attack, though its existence didn't come to light until 1992.

The Menger Hotel

San Antonio TX

Teddy Roosevelt recruited many of his Rough Riders in the hotel's bar. Gen. Robert E. Lee rode his horse into the lobby. And O. Henry wrote the 1859 hotel into some of his stories.

"It's a wonderful structure across from the Alamo in the most historic part of San Antonio."

The American Club

Kohler WI

Built in 1918 as housing for immigrant employees of the Kohler Co., the red brick building is now a 236-room luxury hotel that showcases the company's latest plumbing designs.

John Rutledge House Inn

Charleston SC

Named for its original owner, a signer of the Constitution, the Rutledge House also claims a spot in culinary history: At a formal dinner in the 1920s, the butler livened up a soup with crab eggs, resulting in she-crab soup, which remains a local delicacy. With only 19 guest rooms, it is "a marvelous 18th century house."

The Biltmore

Los Angeles CA

It's fitting that this landmark would have a show-biz legacy. In 1927, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences was founded here; 8 Oscars ceremonies have been staged in the hotel's Crystal Ballroom, the nation's largest when it was added in 1928.

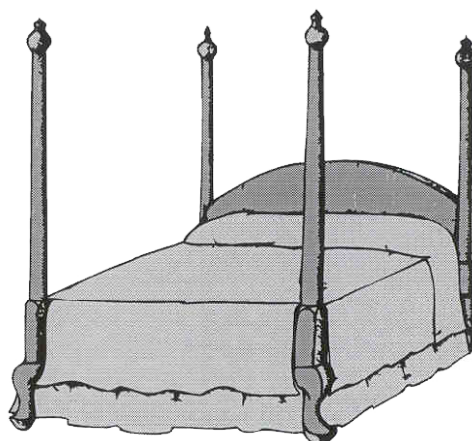


Historic Stay (continued)

Renaissance Mayflower Hotel

Washington DC

Site of inaugural balls since Calvin Coolidge's in 1925, this elegant 660-room hotel is a longtime favorite of the power elite. "It's a fixture in this town. Harry Truman used to play poker there — or that's part of the legend."



Red Lion Inn

Stockbridge MA

One of the few American inns continuously used since the 18th century, the former stagecoach stop was immortalized by Norman Rockwell in his painting *Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas*. "It's a classic New England inn with wonderful ambience and atmosphere."

The Brown Palace Hotel

Denver CO

The Palace has hosted all sorts of dignitaries since opening in 1892. Among the notables was Dwight D. Eisenhower, a frequent summertime guest during his presidency. There's still a dent in the fireplace of his suite, the result of a wayward golf ball.

The Delta Queen Steamboat

New Orleans LA

This restored steamboat was launched in 1927 to shuttle cars between San Francisco and Sacramento. In WW II, it was pressed into service ferrying troops between San Francisco Bay warships and hospitals. Now a floating hotel on inland waterways, it's one of the few boats with National Historic Landmark status.

The Algonquin

New York NY

The hotel will forever be linked to the group of post-WW I literary luminaries that included Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, and Robert E. Sherwood, who met there to have lunch and trade barbs. "It's a literary landmark."

